

The Democratic staff on the Joint Economic Committee updated and expanded on their analysis and found that, on average, since World War II: real GDP has grown about 1.6 times faster under Democrats than Republicans, and private sector job growth has grown nearly 2.5 times faster under Democrats.

This chart tells a story. The Democratic line is blue, and the red is Republican. It shows clearly that job growth was higher and better under Democratic Presidents.

#### OBAMACARE'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONTRACEPTIVE MANDATE

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to echo the remarks of Speaker PAUL RYAN. We must protect the sanctity of the lives of the unborn.

The Little Sisters of the Poor v. Burwell is a landmark case that rightfully challenges ObamaCare's unconstitutional contraceptive mandate. I wholeheartedly agree with the Little Sisters of the Poor and believe that life begins at conception.

Mother Teresa once said: "I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child—a direct killing of the innocent child—murder by the mother herself. And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another?"

The unborn are the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society. The Constitution already protects life, and I have sworn to uphold that Constitution. I will continue to serve all east Tennesseans by consistently voting for life.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF EARLINE PARMON

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize my colleague and friend, former North Carolina State Senator Earline Parmon, who departed this life last week on Super Tuesday.

Earline was a true trailblazer, public servant, and humble leader. She was Forsyth County's first Black State senator. She also served more than a decade in the North Carolina House and on the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Earline was instrumental in helping victims of North Carolina's eugenics program receive restitution, and she did so much more. She dedicated her life to fighting for justice and fighting for our communities.

I was more than honored when Earline joined my staff as my outreach director, expanding her territory to serve North Carolina's 12th Congressional District.

She was loving, kind, and respected. She broke barriers, and she was inspirational. Earline Parmon has left an indelible mark on North Carolinians across our State and Nation. I have known Earline for many decades, and I am proud to have called her my friend and one of my closest confidantes.

Her legacy will continue to live on for generations to come. We salute her and her service to our State.

#### MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS FACE EXTINCTION

(Mr. BYRNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of Holy Week, one of the most important time periods for the Christian faith.

Sadly, in too many places around the world, Christians are under attack simply because of their religious beliefs. The stories of rape, assault, and murder are heartbreaking.

Just look at some of the numbers from the Middle East. In 2003, there were 1½ million Christians in Iraq. Now that number is down to 275,000 and falling. In the very land where Jesus once walked, Christians are becoming extinct.

This Holy Week, may we, as the people's House, reaffirm our commitment to fighting Christian persecution abroad. May we not become discouraged or angry, and may we keep fighting to encourage religious tolerance in the Middle East and all around the world.

And, Mr. Speaker, may we remember what is written in the Gospel of John: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

#### ONE OF AMERICA'S WORST FOREIGN POLICY MISTAKES

(Mr. POLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in solemn observance today of the 13th anniversary of the week that one of the worst foreign policy mistakes of the 21st century was made, the invasion of Iraq, March 20, 2003.

The human cost of the invasion: 4,491 U.S. servicemembers who gave their lives and countless more who were injured or who came back with difficulties facing the challenges of everyday life.

Iraqi deaths were between 151,000 and 500,000, including many innocent women and children, and millions more were driven from their homes.

The economic cost of the war in Iraq: \$1.7 trillion are the estimates of that cost, money that was taken out of the hands of U.S. taxpayers, away from our roads, bridges, infrastructure, and schools to send to Iraq. And the national security cost of that colossal mistake: namely, the creation of ISIS

and, in fact, arming ISIS with weapons that were paid for by American taxpayers, supplied to the failed Iraqi military.

"When will we ever learn?," in the words of the late, great Pete Seeger.

#### LIVINGSTON PARISH NEWS

(Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in recent months, Livingston Parish has lost two important leaders. On October 26 of last year, Jeff McHugh David passed away. Earlier this month, on March 3, Michael Dowty also passed away.

Jeff was the longest serving owner/publisher in the history of Livingston Parish News, and Mike was the 28-year managing editor of the newspaper. Together they had nearly 90 years of newspaper experience.

The Livingston Parish News was established in 1898. It has a 118-year history. During that history, it has been awarded over 600 State and national awards for its journalism excellence.

Mr. Speaker, the Livingston Parish News covered important events like the 1983 floods, which resulted in the Comite diversion authorization, and the LIGO project, which recently discovered for the first time ever gravitational waves.

It is really an amazing newspaper that has done a phenomenal job. They have 1,200 subscribers and over 60,000 online subscribers.

The past 6 months have been a challenging time for the paper. Jeff is survived by his son, McHugh David, who carries on his father's legacy of the Livingston Parish News, as Leesha calls him behind his back, McCutie.

Mr. Speaker, today I recognize and honor these men's service and contribution to our community and to the great State of Louisiana. Both men were institutions in Livingston Parish, and both will be missed.

#### HONORING JAMIE MICK

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Women's History Month to highlight an outstanding woman in my district. My district has many female role models giving back to our communities. One example of a woman dedicated to service is Jamie Mick.

Jamie has served our district through her role in the Rotary Club, the American Cancer Society, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce, Florida Gulf Coast Association of Commercial Realtors, and other organizations.

Jamie is a cofounder of Women IN Charge, helping to empower women by supporting them in managing their businesses, furthering their professional goals, and promoting their health and financial independence.

Jamie is one of the many role models I am proud to have in our community.

This month we have the opportunity to celebrate women like Jamie, making history now for tomorrow's generation of innovators, news makers, and community leaders.

#### CHE GUEVARA POSTER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a picture is worth a thousand words. This poster shows President Obama with the Che Guevara image behind him, coming soon to a T-shirt near you.

Che was a sadistic murderer and killer who executed Cubans during his reign of terror. Che, along with Fidel and Raul Castro, is responsible for the suffering, misery, and oppression of the people of Cuba.

But it seems that some people just don't care. Yesterday President Obama said in an interview that he would be happy to meet with Fidel Castro, and President Obama believes that Raul Castro "truly wants change in Cuba."

Really? What is stopping Castro from holding free and fair elections? Let's start with that little change.

This continued effort to legitimize this regime and its atrocities is appalling. It is appalling for those people who love freedom. It is appalling for those who have been political prisoners in Castro's gulags. It is appalling for those families who have lost their loved ones because of this communist regime.

Today is a sad day, indeed, and this poster says it all. Smile in front of Che Guevara. Get the T-shirt now.

#### CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the terrorist attacks in Brussels, Belgium, that took place early this morning. These brutal acts of violence have claimed the lives of at least 30 people and have injured at least 170 more.

The people of Brussels woke up this morning, ready for another day in their life, only to have their world rocked by this sudden and unexpected attack. Some wished their loved ones goodbye for the day, only to never return.

This is now the second time in just 5 short months that our friends and allies in Europe have been struck with a wide-scale terrorist attack. It is another chilling reminder that we are at war against radical Islamic terrorism.

But it is also a reminder of the goodness in people. We saw people run into the flames, into the smoke, and against the flow of the terrified masses to give aid and comfort to the wounded. It is a

reminder that we are right and just and that we must be ever-vigilant.

Mr. Speaker, we must stand together in solidarity with the Belgian people as they recover, and we must stand together as a world against this ever-increasing threat to our freedom and way of life.

□ 1230

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2745, STANDARD MERGER AND ACQUISITION REVIEWS THROUGH EQUAL RULES ACT OF 2015, AND PROVIDING FOR PROCEEDINGS DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 24, 2016, THROUGH APRIL 11, 2016

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 653 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 653

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 2745) to amend the Clayton Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act to provide that the Federal Trade Commission shall exercise authority with respect to mergers only under the Clayton Act and only in the same procedural manner as the Attorney General exercises such authority. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. On any legislative day during the period from March 24, 2016, through April 11, 2016—

(a) the Journal of the proceedings of the previous day shall be considered as approved; and

(b) the Chair may at any time declare the House adjourned to meet at a date and time, within the limits of clause 4, section 5, article I of the Constitution, to be announced by the Chair in declaring the adjournment.

SEC. 3. The Speaker may appoint Members to perform the duties of the Chair for the duration of the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution as though under clause 8(a) of rule I.

SEC. 4. Each day during the period addressed by section 2 of this resolution shall not constitute a calendar day for purposes of section 7 of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1546).

SEC. 5. The Committee on Energy and Commerce may, at any time before 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016, file a report to accompany H.R. 2666.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on House Resolution 653, currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring this rule forward on behalf of the Rules Committee.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 2745, the Standard Merger and Acquisition Reviews Through Equal Rules Act of 2015, or the SMARTER Act.

The rule also provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and also provides a motion to recommit. I would like to point out that the Rules Committee put out a call for amendments, but none were submitted for consideration.

Yesterday the Rules Committee received testimony from the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, Commercial, and Antitrust Law. A subcommittee hearing was held on this legislation and it was marked up and reported by the Judiciary Committee. The bill went through regular order and enjoyed discussion at both the subcommittee and full committee level.

H.R. 2745 is supported by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Hospital Association because it is a matter of basic fairness and reducing uncertainty.

This legislation makes two key changes to the procedures by which the Federal Trade Commission litigates merger cases. First, it requires the FTC to satisfy the same standards that the DOJ must meet in order to obtain a preliminary injunction in Federal Court.

Second, it requires the FTC to litigate merits of contested merger cases in Federal Court under the Clayton Act—just as the DOJ does—rather than before its own administrative tribunals.

Currently the FTC is authorized to obtain preliminary injunctive relief, whereas the DOJ must satisfy the generally applicable test for obtaining preliminary injunction in Federal Court if it wants to block a merger. Courts have sometimes held that there is a lower burden on the FTC to obtain an injunction than the DOJ would have to face under the traditional test.

Additionally, if the FTC loses a preliminary injunction in Federal Court, it is able to litigate the merits of the cases in an administrative proceeding ultimately adjudicated by its commissioners. However, the DOJ does not have this power.

The SMARTER Act addresses these disparities, as recommended by the Antitrust Modernization Commission.